

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. MCCAIN. For the information of all Senators, under the previous order there will be a rollcall vote on Tuesday at 2:15 p.m. on the motion to invoke cloture on the campaign finance reform bill. If cloture is invoked, the Senate would be expected to continue consideration of S. 1219. If cloture is not invoked, the Senate will resume consideration of the Defense authorization bill, or possibly any other items cleared for action. Additional rollcall votes will therefore occur during Tuesday's session. A cloture motion was filed this evening on the defense bill, with that vote to occur on Wednesday. Under the provisions of rule XXII, first-degree amendments to the DOD bill must be filed by 12:30 on Tuesday.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MCCAIN. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator KENNEDY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Massachusetts is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO GABRIEL LEWIS OF PANAMA

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I was distressed to learn recently that a serious illness has required a valiant champion of human rights and democracy and a great friend of the United States to withdraw from his high position as Foreign Minister of the Republic of Panama. Foreign Minister Gabriel Lewis is well known to many of us in Congress and he is especially warmly remembered for his determined, persuasive, and eloquent opposition to the dictatorship of Manuel Noriega in Panama.

Few, if any, individuals were more responsible for the return of democracy and respect for human rights in Panama than Mr. Lewis. He championed the cause of his fellow Panamanians in a way that makes him a profile in courage for our time.

The President of Panama has recently appointed Mr. Lewis to be his senior counsel with cabinet rank. I know that all friends of Mr. Lewis in the United States and many other countries wish him a speedy recovery. We need his continuing leadership to advance the close ties between our two countries, and to enhance the cause of democracy throughout the Americas.

MINIMUM WAGE

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, 58 years ago today, on the eve of his signing into law the first Federal minimum

wage, President Franklin Roosevelt gave a fireside chat. He warned the American people that they would hear "Calamity howling business executives with incomes of \$1,000 a day, claim that the new minimum wage of \$11 a week will have a disastrous effect on all American industry." It was not true then and it is not true today.

The minimum wage will not hurt business, cause job loss, or cause inflation. It will, however, provide a pay raise for 112 million hard-working Americans who deserve a living wage. Tomorrow, Senator DASCHLE, I, and others will seek to add the minimum wage as an amendment to the DOD authorization bill. This is not the course we would prefer to take, but the Republican leadership of the Senate leaves us no choice.

More than a year ago, I joined Senator DASCHLE in introducing S. 413, a bill that would have raised the minimum wage by 45 cents in July 1995 and again this July for a total raise of 90 cents, bringing the minimum wage up to \$5.15 an hour. We could not get a hearing on S. 413 in the Labor Committee, so on July 31, I offered a sense-of-the-Senate resolution calling on the Senate to consider the minimum wage increase before the end of the year. The resolution was defeated 48 to 49.

In October, unable to have so much as a hearing on the minimum wage, we tried again. Senator KERRY, my colleague, offered a sense-of-the-Senate resolution again, which was blocked by a Republican procedural maneuver. But we got a majority in favor, 51 to 48. We finally got a hearing in December, but no markup was scheduled. Finally, with the real value of the minimum wage continuing to fall and no relief for low-wage workers in sight, we offered an amendment to raise the minimum wage on the parks bill this past April and filed cloture; 55 Senators voted for cloture and 45 against.

It is clear from that vote, and the one last October, that a majority of Senators want to see the minimum wage increased, but they have been frustrated by the Republican leadership. Time after time, we have tried to bring up this critical legislation, but the Republican leadership has been willing to tie up the Senate for 10 days at a time to prevent it. Then on May 23, the House passed a minimum wage increase by a huge margin, 266 to 162. That bill came over from the House, and the majority leader—then Bob Dole, and now Senator LOTT—has refused to allow its consideration as a clean bill.

This is now our last opportunity to have the minimum wage increase considered before the day it is supposed to take effect, July 4. If the Senate does not act now, it will be turning its back on 12 million Americans, who are counting on the Congress to do the right thing for them and their families.

Tomorrow, June 25, marks the 58th anniversary of Franklin Roosevelt's signing of the first minimum wage bill.

The minimum wage in the bill President Roosevelt signed established the wage at 25 cents an hour. In 1938, as today, Republicans were opposed to the minimum wage. But, ultimately, the good sense of the Congress prevailed.

It is entirely fitting that, tomorrow, Senator DASCHLE, our Democratic leader, will seek, once again, to bring the minimum wage increase to the floor, and I hope the Republican leadership will not block that effort. If it does, we will not give up. We will seek to offer the minimum wage to every bill on the Senate floor and, ultimately, I believe we will prevail, as Franklin Roosevelt did 58 years ago.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I will address the Senate for a few moments this evening on an issue that is before the Senate, and really before the country, and that is a question of where we are in our health care debate and discussion.

I thought this evening I would just make some brief comments to follow those of last Friday about what some of the dangers are with medical savings accounts and, in particular, what has been the record of the Golden Rule Insurance Co., which is the principal insurance company that sells medical savings accounts at the present time. I will review, briefly, what the record of that company has been over the period of the last couple of years because there have been those who have questioned whether we have been giving a fair and accurate reflection of this insurance company.

I will include in the RECORD, Mr. President, the Indianapolis Star article of June 22, just a few days ago. This is the Indianapolis Star, the home newspaper for the Golden Rule Insurance Co. I think for those that are familiar with the Indianapolis Star, there is no one here that would suggest that that was considered to be a liberal newspaper, or even a moderate newspaper. It has been one of the newspapers that have been part of the Pullian family and has prided itself in supporting very conservative candidates, with a very conservative editorial policy. This is the hometown newspaper. This is not the Democrats, who are opposed, or Republicans who are opposed to medical savings accounts. This is their hometown newspaper, blowing the whistle, so to speak, on the Golden Rule Insurance Co.

I ask unanimous consent that this article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Indianapolis Star, June 22, 1996]

GOLDEN RULE HAS A KEEN INTEREST IN INSURANCE BILL

INCLUSION OF TAX-FREE MEDICAL SAVINGS ACCOUNTS WOULD BE A SIGNIFICANT AID TO THE FIRM'S PROFITABILITY

(By Larry MacIntyre)

If you ran an insurance business and discovered that fewer and fewer people were